

## LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. Gosse's "Seventeenth Century Studies" are to be reprinted here by J. R. Osgood & Co.

The title of Miss Bradford's forthcoming novel is "Ismail."

An English edition of Prof. G. P. Fisher's work, "The Grounds of Theistic and Christian Belief," is to be issued in London by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton.

Robert Brothers are to be the American publishers of Miss Dudu Fletcher's new novel of "Vestigia."

The next novel of the No Name series will bear the name of its heroine, "Diane Coryal." It is a story of domestic life in France, and is the work of a writer who has lived for many years in Paris.

A comical poetical collection is about to be published in England in monthly parts. It will consist of the parodies of famous English authors. Each part will present the parodies on a single author, with bibliographical notes. Tennyson is to lead the list. Mr. Walter Hamilton is the editor.

Lady Tennyson d'Eyncourt, it is said, writes all her husband's letters, signing them for him in his own name. This will hardly be pleasant news for autograph hunters.

A new German translation of Burns' poems has just appeared in Stuttgart. It is reported to be an excellent one.

Mrs. Lamb contributes to the January number of the *Magazine of American History* an interesting paper on the Van Rensselaer Manor-house and its history. There are now few houses in this country about which cluster more romantic and picturesque associations, and few of more substantial and imposing presence. Several illustrations ornament Mrs. Lamb's article. Some errors of style and construction suggest haste in the writer and carelessness in the proof-reader. What, for example, is meant by this: "He married his cousin, Harriet Van Rensselaer, the incidents of which are tinged with romance?"

The new English paper, *Decoration*, has no patience with anything American. It objects to the American "undisguised worship of rich men"; to the "poor warehouse-like and commonplace" appearance of the Metropolitan Opera House; to the "sheepishness" of American authors and readers as illustrated in the constant recurrence in the magazines of "the same old tiresome subjects—treating of the wickedness of the British rule in America, and the virtue and patriotism of the Americans." It has likewise some comments on the "hideous" styles of furniture which seem to be appreciated in America, if we may take some of the advertisements in the *American Furniture Gazette* as faithfully reflecting popular taste." As for the refined ignorance displayed by some well-received American writers, "it positively revels in modern instances of the same. The text of *Decoration* is so poor and its illustrations exhibit a taste so fastidiously and so debased that we cannot but suspect Oscar Wilde of being the editor.

The late Professor Palmer's "English-Persian Dictionary" has just been published by Messrs. Trübner. When Palmer's tragic death came, the work was unfinished, and it has been skilfully completed by a friend and associate.

Mr. Browning lately wrote this free and hasty translation of Horace in the album of a lady who is renowned for her musical soirees:

All singers, trust me, live this common vice,

To sing "mid friends you're apt to ask them twice,

If you don't ask them 'tis their another thing,

Until the judgment day be sure they'll sing.

There is a rash rumor that Mr. Wilde, in his volume of poems, has "studied more what he calls the 'conventionalities' of English morality than the old one."

Mr. Franklin Fiske Heard has made an ingenious collection of Shakespeare's references to the law and published them through Little, Brown & Co., under the title of "Shakespeare as a Lawyer." The little book is daintily printed; it has a good index; and it goes far to prove the position of divers critics that the great poet in his youth was conversant with the attorney's lore.

In an article on Matthew Arnold in *The Woman's Journal*, Col. T. W. Higginson says: "His essay on America, which I have never happened to read, created a prejudice against him; and there was an impression that he came here in a condescending and patronizing spirit. This seems to me utterly unjust to both his public and private demeanor, which has been eminently simple and kindly. Anecdotes have been coined about him of an unfavorable nature, or so altered as to amount to calomny. It has been reported in the newspapers that when the daughter of Mr. Emerson told him that her father regretted not seeing him in England, he answered, 'Yes I was told that he wished to see me,'—which was quoted as an instance of conceit. But I am told by a lady who was present that the real answer was 'I was told that he did me the honor to wish to see me,' which instantly transforms the whole anecdote."

The first two drafts of Longfellow's "Excelsior" are now in the possession of Harvard. The first of the two is inscribed upon the back of a note from Sumner to Longfellow, and is dated "Sept. 28, 1841, 3:30 o'clock, morning. Now in bed." These drafts show many variations and erasures, each change being in the direction of greater strength and simplicity.

An old friend of Keats says that the poet was passionately fond of music, and would sit for hours while she played the piano to him. It was to a Spanish air which she used to play that the song "Hush, hush! tread softly," was composed; and so sensitive was he to proper execution that when a wrong note has been played in a public performance he has been known to say that he would like to "go down into the orchestra and smash all the fiddles."

Mrs. Eliza Clarke, who is descended from the Wesleys, has written a volume on Susanna Wesley for the "Eminent Women Series."

Some hitherto unpublished drawings by Thackeray will shortly appear in *The Century*, in an article entitled "Thackeray as a Caricaturist." One of these drawings represents the late James Spedding, the editor of Bacon, reading and shading his eyes from the heat of a lamp.

Professor Seeley's "Expansion of England" has had a great sale in Great Britain. Three thousand copies were sold in two months, and the work is still selling at the rate of thirty copies a day.

There are both attractive articles and excellent illustrations in the January *Wheelman*. *Owing* is now incorporated with *The Wheelman*, and the conjunction has resulted in a magazine full of a healthful and vigorous spirit.

Robert Louis Stevenson has revised and enlarged his "Silverado Squatters," and the book will shortly be published by Roberts Brothers, who will also bring out Lewis Morris's new volume of poems, "Songs Unsung," and Philip Bourke Marston's "Wind Voices."

It is Tennyson's "Princess" which Mr. Gilbert is "comicalizing" for Mr. Sullivan's music. It has not yet been announced what subject Mr. W. D. Howells and Mr. Georg Henschel have taken for their forthcoming comic opera.

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

**THE BREAD-WINNERS.** (Harper & Brothers.)

**THE LIFE LETTERS AND LITERARY REMAINS OF EDWARD BULWER, LORD LYTON.** By his son, the Earl of Lyton (Owner Merrett, D. D.). Autobiography. 40. paper, pp. 222. (A. D. F. Randolph & Co.)

**WITH THE POETS.** A selection of English poetry. By F. W. Faister, D. D. 16mo, pp. 250, paper. (F. A. Wagner.)

**LECTURES ON PAINTING.** By Edward Armitage, R. A. Svo. pp. 337. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

**VOICE, SONG AND DRAMA.** By Lenox Morris, F. R. C. S. Ed. Large Svo. pp. 322. (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

## New Publications.

**HARPER & BROTHERS, New-York.**

Publish this Day:

I. THE BREAD-WINNERS.

A SOCIAL STUDY.

16mo, Cloth, \$1.

II.

THE LIFE OF LORD LYTON.

THE LIFE, LETTERS AND LITERARY REMAINS OF EDWARD BULWER, LORD LYTON. By his son, the Earl of Lyton ("Owner Merrett,") Volume I (containing Books I and II of the English Edition). Illustrated. Six portraits, eleven wood engravings, and six fac-similes of MSS., &c. 12mo, cloth, \$2.75.

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